

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/091,535

Applicant(s)

HARUKI, KOSUKE

Examiner

O'Neal R. Mistry

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/07/2002.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3,5,10,12,13 and 16.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1 ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 12/8/4, 3/7/2
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
**DANIEL MIRIAM**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

***Response to Arguments***

The objected claims 3, 5, 10, 12, & 16 in the previous office action have been rewritten in independent form, and the objection thereof to these claims is withdrawn.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 3, 5, 10, 12, 13, 16 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In responds to first non-final office action, claims 3, 5, 10, 12, and 16 are amended for allowance.

The reasons for allowance presented in the last Office Action (mailed on 04/04/5), for objected claims 3, 5, 10, 12, & 16 are not repeated herein, but are entirely incorporated herein by reference.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Fridrick (USPN 6,101,602) discloses digital watermarking by adding random, smooth patterns.

Yokota (USPN 6,249,641) discloses recording medium, recording and/or reproducing apparatus and recording and/or reproducing method.

Morito (USPN 6,310,956) discloses copy protection apparatus and method.

Collart (USPN 6,405,203) discloses method and program product for preventing unauthorized users from using the content of an electronic storage medium.

Rhoads (USPN 6,400,827) discloses methods for hiding in-band digital data in images and video.

Cox (USPN 6,539,475) discloses method and system for protecting digital data from unauthorized copying.

Collart (USPN 6,665,489) discloses system, method and article of manufacturing for authorizing the use of electronic content utilizing a laser-centric medium and a network server.

Yoshida (USPN 6,674,874) discloses digital audio watermarking using content-adaptive, multiple echo hopping.

Xu (USPN 6,674,861) discloses data processing apparatus and method and storage medium.

Higurashi (USPN 6,834,349) discloses copyright protection system for data storage and transmission.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to O'Neal R. Mistry whose telephone number is (703) 305-4675. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am - 6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh M. Mehta can be reached on (703) 308-5246. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

O'Neal Mistry  
Assistant Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2625  
[o'neal.mistry@uspto.gov](mailto:o'neal.mistry@uspto.gov)

  
**DANIEL MIRIAM**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**